11   a picture decoding apparatus including reception control means of

12   receiving or reading the coded pictures with the priority identifiers,

13   picture decoding means of decoding the coded pictures with the

14   priority identifiers,

15   wherein each priority identifier is used by the picture decoding

16   apparatus to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be

17   processed according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture

18   decoding apparatus, and each priority identifier is used independently of the

19   picture identifiers and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture.

1   3.   (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, including

2   priority providing means for determining the priority of processing when coded

3   information is overloaded by a predetermined standard, and corresponding

4   between said coded information and said determined priority, and said picture

5   decoding apparatus and/or sound decoding apparatus includes priority decision

6   means for determining the method of processing according to the priority when

7   the received various information is overloaded.

1   11.   (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the

2   sequence of pictures and sounds to be decoded, synthesized or displayed,

3   presence or absence, or reproducing method is determined, according to at least

4   one information or more out of the accounting information, service content

5   information, password, user code, nation code, information showing rank of

6   synthesis or display, information showing rank of decoding, user" s instruction,

7   terminal processing capacity, and reproduction time.

1   12.   (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said

2   reception control means handles the information describing the mutual relation of

3   information of pictures or information of sounds, out of the various information,

4   independently as different information from the picture information or sound

5   information.

1   14.   (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said

2   picture synthesizing means or sound synthesizing means holds, controls and

3   utilizes the result of decoding until it is instructed to discard the result of

4   decoding from the transmission side.

1   15.   (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the

2   user is informed of the presence of pictures or sounds that cannot be synthesized

3   because necessary decoded pictures or sounds are not prepared, when

4   synthesizing the pictures or sounds, on the basis of the information describing

5   the mutual relation of information of pictures or information of sounds.

1   20.   (Thrice Amended) A picture coding apparatus comprising:

2   picture coding means of coding pictures and providing a picture

3   identifier for each picture as an I, P or B picture,

4   priority providing means of correlating each coded picture with a

5   priority identifier which assigns a priority level to one or more frames of the

6   coded pictures, and

7   transmission control means of transmitting or recording the coded

8   pictures with the priority identifiers to a picture decoding apparatus,

9   wherein each priority identifier is used by the picture decoding

10   apparatus to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be

11   processed according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture

12   decoding apparatus, and each priority identifier is used independently of the

13   picture identifiers and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture.

1   21.   (Thrice Amended) A picture decoding apparatus

2   comprising:

3   reception control means of receiving or reading coded pictures with

4   correlated priority identifiers transmitted from a picture coding apparatus, and

5   picture identifiers for each picture as an I, P or B picture, each of the priority

6   identifiers assigning a priority level to one or more frames of the coded pictures,

7   picture decoding means of decoding the coded pictures with the

8   priority identifiers,

9   wherein each priority identifier is used by the picture decoding

10   apparatus to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be

11   processed according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture

12   decoding apparatus, and each priority identifier is used independently of the

13 picture identifiers and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture.

1 24. (Amended) A picture decoding apparatus comprising:

2 a receiver for receiving (a) coded pictures transmitted from a
3 picture coding apparatus, and (b) a priority level associated with each coded
4 picture, wherein the priority level is assigned to one or more frames of the coded
5 pictures and obtained from a listing of more than two priority levels arranged in
6 order of importance,

7 a processor for processing the coded pictures, and

8 output means of delivering the processed pictures,

9 wherein the processor processes a picture or discards a picture
10 according to a load or processing capacity of the processor, deciding to process or
11 discard the picture based on its level of importance from the more than two
12 priority levels.

1 25. (Amended) A method of processing pictures from a coding
2 apparatus to a decoding apparatus comprising the steps of:

3 (a) receiving from the coding apparatus (i) coded I, P and B
4 pictures and (ii) a picture identifier for identifying each picture as an I, P or B
5 picture;

6 (b) receiving from the coding apparatus a priority identifier
7 associated with each coded I, P or B picture, the priority identifier assigning a
8 priority level to one or more frames of the coded pictures and derived from a
9 listing of priority levels arranged in order of importance;

10 (c) determining at the decoding apparatus a processing load or
11 a processing capacity of the decoding apparatus;

12 (d) processing or discarding a received coded picture according
13 to the determined processing load or processing capacity of the decoding
14 apparatus in step (c) and the received priority identifier,

15 wherein the received coded picture is processed or discarded based
16 on its level of importance derived from the listing arranged in order of

17 importance, and independently of the picture identifier, and independently of
18 whether the picture is an I, P or B picture.

Please add the following new claims 27-31:

1   27. (Newly Added) A picture decoding apparatus comprising:

2   a picture coding apparatus including picture coding means of coding a
3 picture, and transmission control means of transmitting or recording coded various
4 information corresponding to the picture, and

5   a picture decoding apparatus including reception control means of
6 receiving the coded various information, picture decoding means of decoding
7 received various information, picture synthesizing means of synthesizing one or more
8 decoded pictures, and output means of delivering the synthesized pictures,

9   wherein the coded various information includes a picture identifier and
10 a priority identifier, the picture identifier being for each picture as an I, P or B
11 picture, and the priority identifier indicating a priority of which the picture is to be
12 processed according to a load processed by a reception side terminal or processing
13 capacity of a reception side terminal.

1   28. (Newly Added) A picture coding apparatus comprising:

2   picture coding means for coding a picture, and transmission control
3 means for transmitting or recording coded various information,

4   wherein the coded various information is to be delivered to a picture
5 decoding apparatus comprising reception control means for receiving coded various
6 information, picture decoding means for decoding the received various information,
7 and output means for delivering the decoded picture,

8   wherein the coded various information includes a picture identifier and
9 a priority identifier, the picture identifier being for each picture as an I, P or B
10 picture, and the priority identifier indicating a priority of which the picture is to be
11 processed according to a load processed by a reception side terminal or processing
12 capacity of the picture decoding apparatus.

1   29. (Newly Added) A picture decoding apparatus comprising:

2   reception control means for receiving coded various information

3   transmitted from a picture coding apparatus including picture coding means for

4   coding a picture, and transmission control means for transmitting or recording coded

5   various information corresponding to the picture,

          picture decoding means for decoding the received various information,

7   and

8   output means for delivering the decoded picture,

9   wherein the coded various information includes a picture identifier and

10   a priority identifier, the picture identifier being for each picture as an I, P or B

11   picture, and the priority identifier indicating a priority of which the picture is to be

12   processed according to a load processed by a reception side terminal or processing

13   capacity of the picture decoding apparatus.

1   30.   (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 27, 28 or 29, wherein

2   the picture is a stream including plural frames.

1   31.   (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 27, 28 or 29, wherein

2   the picture is a single frame.